

tion, giving the species or races described or eliminated, and whatever changes that have been made during that time." These changes of course greatly increase the value of a work which has proved very serviceable to sojourners in the Bahamas interested in the birds of the Islands, as well as to ornithologists. — J. A. A.

**Grant's 'Our Common Birds.'**\* — The purpose of this little book is to furnish the beginner with useful hints in the study of the bird life about him. The work is unique in plan and execution. Ninety species are treated, selected from the more common and striking birds met with in the vicinity of New York City, the males only of which are described. The illustrations consist of photogravures from stuffed specimens. They serve to show what can be done by means of photography in illustrating from museum specimens. Where the pattern of coloration is distinctive, the birds are readily recognizable from the portraits here presented. In other cases it would be difficult for even the ornithological expert to tell them. In the case of large birds, where the figures are necessarily much less than natural size, the effect is quite satisfactory; with the smaller birds, the figures of many of which are nearly or quite natural size, all the defects of taxidermy (which unfortunately are glaring) are magnified, with most unhappy results. Although in many instances no idea of color, or even the distribution of the different tints, can be given by any known process of photography, yet with specimens mounted in the highest style of the taxidermists' art, and with some attempt at a natural effect in respect to pose and accessories, the results might be more satisfactory.

The text is well written, much care having been taken to secure accuracy of statement, while the spirit of the book is admirable. Much good advice as to where, how, and when to look for birds is given in the first fifty pages, including explanations of many technicalities, and a calendar indicating the seasons when the various species may be looked for. The author is an enthusiastic admirer of nature and strives to impart his enthusiasm to his readers. The book has thus a decidedly literary flavor. It is in the form of an oblong octavo, and in typography and arrangement is an attractive little volume. Doubtless it will touch a popular chord and be widely welcomed as a stimulating companion to many who, without aiming to be scientific, desire a speaking acquaintance with the feathered tenants of wood and field. — J. A. A.

**Thompson's 'Birds of Manitoba.'** † — In a paper of nearly two hundred pages Mr. Thompson gives his field notes on the birds of Manitoba made during a three years' residence in the Province, covering parts of the

\* Our Common Birds | and how to know them | By | John B. Grant | With sixty-four Plates | New York | Charles Scribner's Sons | 1891. | pp. 216. 64 photogravure illustrations.

† The Birds of Manitoba. By Ernest E. Thompson, of Toronto, Canada. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XIII, 1890, pp. 457-643, pl. xxxviii. (Published June, 1891.)